

Message Text

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13

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 EB-11

AID-20 DRC-01 COME-00 SCI-06 SWF-02 /226 W

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R 262113Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4862

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, XS

SUBJ: CROP-CLIMATE ASSESSMENT STUDIES

REF: STATE A-5551

1. THE FOLLOWING EMERGED IN THE COURSE OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WFC SECT REGARDING THE USG PLAN TO ENCOURAGE STUDIES CORRELATING CROP YIELDS TO METEOROLOGICAL AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

A. THE WFC SECT FOUND THE NOAA STUDY VERY INTERESTING AND SIGNIFICANT. IT AGREES THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ENCOURAGE OTHER STUDIES OF THIS KIND.

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B. THE SECT POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE RELIABLE

METEOROLOGICAL DATA EXISTS FOR MANY COUNTRIES, THIS IS NOT THE CASE WITH RESPECT TO DATA REGARDING AGRICULTURAL YIELDS. IN THE SECT'S VIEW ONLY A FEW COUNTRIES (US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, UK, GERMANY) HAVE OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICES, SUCH SERVICES ARE MUCH WEAKER AND LESS RELIABLE IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND STUDIES OF THE KIND CONDUCTED BY NOAA WILL BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO DUPLICATE IN MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN INDIA, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS EXCELLENT METEOROLOGICAL DATA COVERING THE PAST FIVE DECADES BUT VERY LITTLE ACCURATE AGRICULTURAL YIELD DATA BY SPECIFIC AREA TO WHICH METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS COULD BE RELATED.

C. THE SECT DOES NOT IN ANY WAY WISH TO DISCOURAGE THE US FROM PURSUING THIS MATTER AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE OR BILATERALLY OR WITH THE APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BUT WISHES TO SUGGEST THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING HIGHLY RELIABLE AGRICULTURAL DATA TO PROPERLY INTERFACE WITH METEOROLOGICAL DATA BE KEPT IN VIEW. IT NOTED THAT CREATING HIGHLY COMPETENT AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICES IN A NUMBER OF KEY PRODUCING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INPUTS FROM EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL SOURCES, OR BOTH. IN MAKING THE FOREGOING COMMENT THE SECT EMPHASIZED THAT IT DOES NOT QUESTION THE DESIRABILITY OF DEVELOPING SUCH CAPACITIES--WHICH IN ITS VIEW IS UNQUESTIONABLY DESIRABLE--AND EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS ALREADY BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THIS CONNECTION.
BENNETT

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30 JUN 2005

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